

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10

ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /133 W

-----069817 061400Z /43

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8860

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM CCD

SUBJECT: CCD SUMMER SESSION: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, JULY 5, 1977

1. SUMMARY: CCD WESTERN GROUP MET ON MORNING OF JULY 5, JUST BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF CCD'S SUMMER SESSION. SEVERAL WESTERN REPS URGED CREATING AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO CONDUCT CCD MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON A CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) BAN. NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT IF CCD'S SUMMER SESSION IS TO BE A HOLDING ACTION ON CW AND ON COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB), STRONG NON-ALIGNED CRITICISM CAN BE EXPECTED. GROUP AGREED TO MEET REGULARLY, ON WEDNESDAYS. END SUMMARY

2. REPS OF CCD WESTERN GROUP COUNTRIES (CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NETHERLANDS, UK, US) MET ON MORNING OF JULY 5, A FEW HOURS PRIOR TO THE REOPENING OF THE CONFERENCE. REPS OF ITALY (DI BERNARDO), UK (ASHE), NETHERLANDS (VAN DER KLAUW), AND CANADA (JAY) ADVOCATED CREATING AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP IN CCD AT SOME TIME DURING THE SUMMER SESSION, PREFERABLY IN JULY, IN ORDER TO BEGIN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW). IF WORKING GROUP WERE ESTABLISHED, THESE REPS SUGGESTED, DISCUSSION COULD BE

LIMITED TO PROCEDURAL OR ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS, OR COULD BE FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC, LIMITED ASPECTS (E.G., DEFINITIONS OF CW AGENTS AND SCOPE OF COVERAGE, STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE). US REP (FISHER) STATED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID PREJUDGING OR PREJUDICING US-SOVIET BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON CW, AND THAT AS LONG AS FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE US AND USSR IT WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID HAVING WORKING GROUP NEGOTIATIONS TURN INTO A DEBATE. IN ADDITION, THE US REP DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS TO PARTICULAR, NARROW TOPICS. IN ANY CASE, THE US REP SAID HE WILL KEEP WESTERN GROUP MEMBERS INFORMED OF THE SUBSTANCE AND DEGREE OF PROGRESS IN CW DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USSR.

3. IN REGARD TO THE CW INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS IN CCD, PROPOSED BY THE CO-CHAIRMEN (US, USSR) FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29, REPS OF CANADA (JAY) AND NETHERLANDS (VAN DER KLAUW) CALLED FOR THESE MEETINGS TO BE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22 INSTEAD, SAYING THAT THE LATER DATES WOULD CROWD THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION AND CAUSE DIFFICULTIES IN RELATION TO PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE UNGA. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) SUGGESTED DECIDING ON THIS MATTER NEXT WEEK, WHEN RESULTS OF THE NEXT ROUND OF US-SOVIET CW TALKS WILL HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) DECLARED THAT THE CW INFORMAL MEETINGS SHOULD NOT INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS, BECAUSE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN INFORMAL POLITICAL DISCUSSION ON CW ISSUES BUT LITTLE INTEREST IN FURTHER TECHNICAL DEBATE.

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4. FROM THE TONE OF THE GENERAL DISCUSSION AND THE CO-CHAIRMEN'S PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK, NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) OBSERVED THAT THE CO-CHAIRMEN SEEM TO CONSIDER CCD'S SUMMER SESSION LARGELY A HOLDING ACTION, AND THAT THIS IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO EVOKE A STRONG REACTION FROM THE DELS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE REPS OF THE UK, CANADA, AND THE FRG SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BECOME ADVISABLE FOR THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO THE QUESTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) FOR AMRS CONTROL MEASURES, WHICH MIGHT BE THE ONLY SUBJECT ON WHICH CCD COULD TAKE CONCRETE ACTION THIS YEAR. FURTHER, SINCE THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) IS CERTAIN TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF A CNP, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR CCD TO TRY TO CHANNEL THESE DISCUSSIONS INTO PRODUCTIVE LINES.

5. ITALIAN REP (DI BERNARDO) REMINDED THE GROUP OF THE RECENT SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION THAT CCD CREATE AN EXPERTS GROUP TO STUDY SEABEDS TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF FURTHER SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. SUCH CONSIDERATION, THE ITALIAN REP STATED, SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF CCD'S OTHER PRIORITIES. US REP (FISHER)

REPLIED THAT THE US HAS NO PROPOSALS TO MAKE IN THIS FIELD, BUT IS WILLING TO REVIEW THE SUGGESTIONS OF OTHERS AS THEY ARISE.

6. WESTERN GROUP DECIDED TO MEET AT 11:00 ON WEDNESDAYS DURING THE SUMMER SESSION, WITH THE FIRST SUCH MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 13.SORENSEN

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